

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 30th APRIL 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013-14

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The year end accounts for the Schools Budget are currently being prepared. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the expected outturn position and a brief description of the variations. There is an anticipated under spend for the year of £400,000.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The table attached compares the Schools Budget with the indicative spend for the year. The main variations are set out below.

2.2 Early Years Grant - £0.08m over spend

Although there is an £80,000 overspend against this budget, funding has increased following the January 2014 census. In January 2014 there were an additional 56 pupils (a total of 2,992 compared to 2,936 the previous January). This will trigger additional DSG of £124,700.

The Early Years budget also makes provision for 2 year olds where there is an expected under spend of £300,000 at the year end against a budget of £3.2m. This amount will be carried forward to meet commitments to build 2 year old capacity for the extended offer in September 2014.

2.3 Admissions - £0.09m under spend

There is additional income that has been received from Academies, a reduction in costs following changes in 11+ test papers and from ceasing the Choice Advisor Service.

2.4 School Closure / retirement costs - £0.2m under spend

The enhanced pension costs arising from previous school closures are estimated to be £125,000, resulting in a projected under spend of £200,000.

2.5 Carbon Reduction Commitment - £0.03m over spend

This takes account of an overspend in 2012-13 costs and a similar overspend for 2013-14 prior to the scheme ending for schools at 31st March 2014.

2.6 Contribution to Combined Budgets £0.1m underspend

Combined budgets total £2.5m and are in the following areas:

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief top up	270,000
School Improvement	359,900
LSCB Contribution	30,000
School Sports Coordinator	25,000
School Intervention	674,500
City Learning Centres	814,700
School Emoluments Wellbeing and Staff Surveys	44,600
Clinical Waste Disposal	11,600
Governors Forum	2,200
PFI Support Team	61,800
Use of School Swimming Baths	19,800
LACES	185,500
Total	2,499,600

The above contributions are fully committed with the exception of the Schools Discretionary Rate Relief costs. These have reduced following academy conversions and the consequent school rates liability.

2.7 Schools Forum - £0.01m under spend

There is an estimated under spend of £10,000 in this area.

2.8 Schools Planned Programmed Maintenance (PPM)

The overall PPM budget is £649,000. Taking account of the planned contribution to the Schools Capital Programme of £200,000 which was agreed at the last meeting the budget will be fully spent.

2.9 School Specific Contingency

The Contingency budget of £109,600 in relation to Primary and Secondary Schools has an estimated spend against it of £78,000. Special Schools have agreed a buyback for contingency totaling £167,000. Where there has been no call or underspends on these budgets they will be returned to the individual schools concerned.

Primary and Secondary Contingency	Estimated Spend
	£
Vulnerable Children	25,000
Fender KS1 Teacher	16,000
Pension Arrears	15,000
Rates	22,000
Total	78,000

2.10 Special Staff Costs - £0.25m over spend

There is a budget of £606,900 that covers all special staff costs such as maternity, paternity and Trade Union Facility Time. The overspend reflects maternity costs that are higher than planned and other exceptional school staff costs.

2.11 School Meals

The indicative overspend previously reported has been offset within the service. Income levels have exceeded forecasts and staff costs have reduced. There is an indicative surplus of £50,000, which will be returned to schools as in previous years.

2.12 Special Education Needs Transition Reserve £0.3m under spend

The 2013-14 budget is £8.3m, of which £8.0m has been committed, including the costs to fund the High Needs MFG in 2014-15 of £330,000.

2.13 Special Education Needs Statements - £0.5m under spend

There is a net underspend in Statementing costs in schools and early years.

2.14 Independent Special School Fees £0.2m underspend

There are 82 known places compared to an estimate of 89 at this time last year.

2.15 Support for Special Education Needs - £0.4m under spend

A significant proportion of the £700,000 central budget, which is held to review, develop and plan SEN provision across Wirral was not committed. This area will be reviewed in 2014-15

2.16 DSG Academy Recoupment

There is a net additional recoupment of DSG of £270,000 in respect of Business Rates liabilities for Academy Schools. In addition there has been a part year adjustment for Academy High Needs pupils of £180,000

3.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

There will be a more detailed report on the year end School Balances and Reserves at the next meeting. Those new areas to note include:

3.1 PFI Affordability Gap £600,000

This is a new reserve providing funding to meet part of the 2014-15 PFI costs within the Schools Budget.

3.2 High Needs MFG £330,000

This reserve will meet the costs of the MFG for Special Schools and Resourced Base provision in 2014-15

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The variations identified in the centrally held schools budget set out above have no direct impact on delegated school budgets.
- 4.2 The anticipated under spend of £400,000 will be carried forward at the end of the Financial Year to be taken into account of as part of the Schools Budget for 2015/16.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2013/14

	Adjusted Base Budget 2013/14 £	Forecast Spend 2013/14 £	Variation 2013/14 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	92,058,800	92,058,800	0
Secondary Schools	31,788,300	31,788,300	0
Special Schools	8,690,000	8,690,000	0
SEN Bases	2,068,000	2,068,000	0
WASP	640,000	640,000	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300	0
Early Years	13,514,600	13,594,600	80,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	150,112,000	150,192,000	80,000
Central School Costs			
Early Years	541,100	541,100	0
Admissions	452,500	357,500	(95,000)
School Closure / retirement costs	326,000	126,000	(200,000)
Licences & Subscriptions	101,300	101,300	0
Carbon Reduction	230,300	260,300	30,000
Schools Forum	10,600	600	(10,000)
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000	450,000	0
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,499,600	2,384,600	(115,000)
PPM	649,000	649,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,395,400	2,395,400	0
Costs Delegated to schools			
Library Service	198,400	198,400	0
Insurances	55,200	55,200	0
MEAS	253,800	253,800	0
School Specific Contingencies	109,600	109,600	0
Special Staff Costs	606,900	856,900	250,000
Milk & Meals	13,900	13,900	0
Behaviour Support	96,500	96,500	0
High Needs Pupils			
SEN Transition Top Ups	8,298,600	7,978,600	(320,000)
Statements	5,332,900	4,852,900	(480,000)
Support for SEN	2,292,900	1,862,900	(430,000)
Indep Special School Fees	3,315,300	3,015,300	(300,000)
Education Out of School	248,600	278,600	30,000
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs	28,536,600	26,896,600	(1,640,000)
Contribution to Reserves		600,000	600,000
Dedicated Schools Grant	(176,054,000)	(175,478,000)	576,000
Grand Total	2,594,600	2,210,600	(384,000)

